

Mental Health and Disability Services Commission

October 15, 2020 9:30 am to 12:00 pm

Zoom

MEETING MINUTES – Draft pending approval

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Betsy Akin	Lorrie Young
Cory Turner	Maria Sorensen
Diane Brecht	Richard Whitaker
Janee Harvey	Russell Wood
John Parmeter	Timothy Perkins

MHDS COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:

Teresa Daubitz	Shari O'Bannon
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OTHER ATTENDEES:

Chaney Yeast	Kris Bell
Deanna Triplett	Libby Reekers
Flora Schmidt	Linda Kellen
Jamie Nowlin	Megan Hartwig
Jane Hudson	Sandi Hurtado-Peters
Jason Orent	Stacie Maas
Jason Vermeer	Theresa Armstrong
John Hedgecoth	Todd Lange
Karen Hyatt	Todd Noack
Katie Peck	Torie Keith

Welcome and Introductions

John Parmeter called the meeting to order at 9:31am and led introductions. Quorum was established with eight members present virtually.

Review and Vote on September 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Russell Wood made a motion to approve the September 17, 2020 meeting minutes. Timothy Perkins seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion on Commission's Annual Report

John Parmeter led the Commission through a review of the annual report. Updates were made to the membership as well as grammatical corrections throughout. A request was made to add an executive summary to the beginning of the report to specifically highlight legislative priorities.

Peer Run Organizations

Todd Noack, Executive Director of Life Connections, led the Commission through a presentation on services provided by Life Connections, including Rhonda's House, Iowa's only peer run respite house located in DeWitt, Iowa with an average of two residents each night. Life Connections operates the Wellness Recovery Center, a virtual recovery center, peer-run respite center, a 24/7 support line, and will soon have a 24-hour warm line. Todd explained that peer-run respites help connect people with the right services at the right time, helps to identify gaps in

the service system, creates recovery communities and builds natural supports, supports re-entry into the community, and helps decrease the rate of inpatient stays and incarceration rates.

Jason Orent, Executive Director of Plugged in Iowa, shared with the Commission his work with Plugged in Iowa. Starting in 2015, Plugged in Iowa contracted with a few MHDS Regions to provide peer run one-on-one services. Due to the lack of funding experienced from COVID-19, Plugged in Iowa has had to close down all their locations. Jason reported that referrals are still coming in but due to having to close down, there are no staff to serve. Jason discussed other barriers of providing services including high turnover, lack of consistent hours, and difficulty in billing for peer services.

There was discussion over funding sources of peer services and oversight and monitoring of services.

Public Comment

Todd Lange thanked Todd Noack and Jason Orent for their presentation.

Break

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 11:10 am and reconvened with the Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council at 12:32 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Victoria Keith.